

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to the

### THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

for the Year 1900.

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my report for the year 1900, it being the last of the decennial period defined by the last Census, it will be observed that the Local Government Board have adopted a somewhat different series of Tables from those which have been existing since the year 1880. Instead of two, there are now four, which deal in an admirable and simple way with the statistical requirements of a Rural Sanitary District, as regards the ratio of Births, Deaths, and notifiable diseases.

They note not only the present condition of the District under review, but carry that review back to the last Census period. This being the last year of that period, it may be permissible to remark, that in the year 1890, in attempting to follow out the requirements of the Central Authority, to have the increase of population estimated from year to year, on the basis of the difference between the Birth rate and the Death rate, the theoretical population of the District was found to be equal to 14,174. There were many indications to show that this figure must be incorrect, but the guess was made that the actual increase might be up to about 13,600.

The inaccuracy of even this guarded estimate was almost ludicrous, for not only had the estimated increase of population, represented by the difference between the Birth and Death rates, amounting to 3,110 in the ten years, disappeared, but 652 of the population existing in 1881 as well; making an actual loss of population during the ten years of 3,762. With such a proved state of things existing, it was considered ridiculous to attempt a calculation for increase, and therefore that column in Table I of the Local Government Board forms was consistently left untouched throughout the whole decade.

At the end of 1900, the estimated increase of population during the ten years ought to amount to 1,189, raising the population again to 14,205, but there is little evidence in the general condition of the District to afford a well founded hope that such a figure is correct, even with the enlargement of the District, which was effected in 1895. It is safest therefore to leave any local increase to be determined by the proximate Census. The alteration of figures in 1898 in Table 2, refers to the rearrangement of localities in that year, when the Pickhill sub-district was distributed under Thirsk, Topcliffe and Knayton, and so disappeared.

It is perhaps worthy of remark how closely the death rate of 1900 (15.67) tallies with the average rate (15.68) for the preceeding ten years.

Concerning the causes likely to affect the health of the population during the year 1900, it may be stated, as was done in the previous year, that these were not endemic, but generally introduced, and it cannot with truth be said, that any single death in any part of the District during the year, was the result of any specially insanitary condition or unhealthy surroundings, or induced by any offensive processes of trade.

Table III. shows that there was only one case of Enteric Fever notified during the year, and that, I think, was of a doubtful character. The case was reported at Kepwick, a high and very healthy locality. The premises on which it occurred were clean and well-kept. Opportunity was taken to examine the well on the premises, and the Kepwick and Cowesby water supplies, all of which might be pronounced among the best in the district.

The severe and inclement weather in the beginning of the year, had the effect of raising the death rate highly during the first quarter; Bronchitis and Influenza heading the list of deaths, persons of advanced age, however, being the chief sufferers.

In consequence of the prevalence of Whooping Cough in different parts of the District, it was found necessary to have schools closed in Sutton, Felixkirk, and Boltby, for periods of two or three weeks. As these schools are in villages lying on the spurs of the Hambleton Hills, the severely inclement state of the weather was almost a sufficient reason in itself for the closure.

The schools in Kirby Wiske had to be closed during the second quarter, and in Kirby Hill in the fourth quarter of the year. In each case, a closure for three or four weeks was sufficient to check the progress of the Zymotic.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under 1 year of age.		Deaths at all ages.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of residents registered beyond the District.	Deaths at all ages, nett.	
		No.	*Rate.	No.	Rate per 1000 births.	No.	*Rate.				No.	*Rate.
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1890	12188	298	23.20	33	110.73	174	14.27	..	..	..	..	..
1891	12188	311	25.5	31	99.67	238	19.52	..	..	..	..	..
1892	12188	283	23.21	42	148.40	201	16.49	..	9	.	192	15.75
1893	12188	323	26.50	40	123.83	221	18.13	..	..	..	..	..
1894	12188	314	25.76	33	105.09	186	15.26	..	..	..	..	..
1895	13016	352	27.04	42	119.31	190	14.59	..	..	..	..	..
1896	13016	317	24.35	28	88.32	167	12.83	..	..	..	..	..
1897	13016	321	24.66	29	90.34	185	14.21	..	..	..	..	..
1898	13016	309	23.74	44	142.39	204	15.67	..	..	..	..	.
1899	13016	327	25.12	36	110.09	207	15.90	..	..	..	..	..
Averages for years 1890 to 1900.	12602	315.5	24.83	35.8	113.81	197.3	15.68	..	..	..	..	..
1900	13016	335	25.73	38	113.43	204	15.67	..	..	..	..	..

\*Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres—64,024.	Total population at all ages .. ..	12,188	} At Census of 1891.
	Number of inhabited houses ..	2,799	
	Average number of persons per house	4.35	



TABLE II.  
THIRSK RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Year.	1. THIRSK.				2. TOPCLIFFE.				3. SUTTON.				4. KNAYTON.				5. PICKHILL.			
	Names of localities.																			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d
1890	6584	174	105	21	1590	28	14	4	1156	20	10	1	1622	40	22	4	1236	36	23	3
1891	..	168	136	19	..	41	27	3	..	29	27	1	..	38	23	4	..	35	25	4
1892	..	164	123	28	..	37	29	4	..	20	16	4	..	25	11	2	..	37	22	4
1893	..	165	145	24	..	41	21	5	..	24	16	2	..	52	17	3	..	41	22	6
1894	..	161	109	17	..	53	23	6	..	28	17	3	..	39	26	5	..	33	11	2
1895	..	180	113	29	..	70	20	5	..	19	18	1	..	50	21	4	..	33	18	3
1896	..	157	104	18	..	69	22	3	..	28	16	3	..	33	17	4	..	30	8	..
1897	..	192	104	19	..	56	26	2	..	19	13	1	..	32	15	2	..	22	27	5
1898	6935	170	121	29	2140	82	43	12	..	16	16	1	1957	41	24	2				
1899	..	185	133	25	..	75	43	7	..	31	10	1	..	36	21	3				
Averages of Years 1890-1899		171.6	119.3	22.9		55.2	26.8	5.1		23.4	15.9	1.8		38.6	19.7	3.3		33.37	19.5	3.37
1900	6935	199	100	21	2140	76	49	8	1156	18	30	3	1957	42	24	6				

TABLE III.  
THIRSK RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.  
Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1900.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.							Total cases notified in each locality.				No. of cases removed to hospital from each locality.			
	At all ages.	At ages—years						1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
		under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards.								
Diphtheria .. ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. ..	10	..	..	..	..	4	6	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. ..	10	..	1	6	1	2	..	4	..	3	3	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever .. ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ..	145	16	55	69	3	2	..	73	27	30	15	..	..	..	..
Measles .. ..	15	1	2	10	1	1	..	..	7	..	1	..	..	..	..
Totals	182	17	58	87	5	9	6	93	35	33	21	..	..	..	..

TABLE IV.  
THIRSK RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.  
Causes of, and Ages at Death, during Year 1900.

Causes of Death	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all ages)				Deaths in Public Institutions
	All ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	1	2	3	4	
Scarlet Fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	
Whooping Cough	6	3	3	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	1	
Epidemic Influenza ..	11	..	..	..	..	1	10	1	6	3	1	
Diarrhœa ..	4	1	..	1	1	..	1	4	..	..	..	
Erysipelas ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	..	..	
Phthisis ..	17	..	..	..	7	10	..	10	4	1	2	
Other Tuber- cular diseases..	3	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	..	1	1	
Cancer, malig- nant disease ..	9	..	..	..	..	3	6	2	3	1	3	
Bronchitis ..	30	12	4	..	..	3	11	14	7	5	4	
Pneumonia ..	3	..	..	..	..	1	2	2	1	..	..	
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of Liver	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	
Premature Births	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	1	..	
Diseases and accidents of Parturition }	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	
Heart Diseases	24	..	..	1	..	7	16	14	2	4	4	
Accidents ..	7	..	3	..	1	1	2	4	3	..	..	
Suicides ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	
All other causes	76	16	2	..	3	20	53	39	16	13	8	
All causes	204	39	12	2	14	51	86	100	50	30	24	